

Appl. No.: 10/534,186
Amdt. Dated: March 16, 2010
Reply to Office Action of December 24, 2009

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 12 stand rejected while claim 16 stands objected to. Applicants have amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 16 herein. Therefore, claims 1-7 and 12 are pending and at issue. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims and allowance of the case.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 16 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features of claim 16 as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 16 has therefore been cancelled herein.

Claims 1-7 and 12 stand rejected in view of a variety of combinations of references. As discussed above, Applicants have amended independent claim 1, from which claims 2-7 and 12 depend, to recite the features of 16, which has been indicated to be allowable. Therefore, amended claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-7 and 12, should now be allowable.

Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the aforesaid amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a proper condition for allowance.

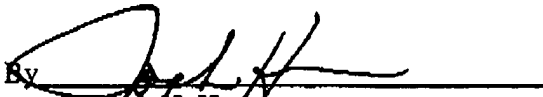
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CONCLUSION

Should any informal matters remain which can be corrected by Examiner's amendment, Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted by phone in order to expedite the prosecution of the present case.

If any fees are due in connection with this application, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 19-1351 as required. If such withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (37399-400300) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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